

**Amendment to Create an Initiative to Develop Strategies to Target Obesity**

This amendment would provide authorization for the establishment of competitive grant programs targeted at developing and testing solutions to the rising rates of obesity in the nation. This amendment also intends to strengthen efforts to integrate nutrition education in the Food Stamp Program. With obesity becoming a serious health concern, this amendment aims to create initiatives and strategies to address this problem.

**AMENDMENT TO COMMITTEE PRINT**  
**OFFERED BY MR. KAGEN OF WISCONSIN**

At an appropriate place, insert the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate):

1 **SEC. XXXX. NUTRITION EDUCATION AND PROMOTION INI-**  
2 **TIATIVE TO ADDRESS OBESITY.**

3 Section 17 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
4 2026) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(k) NUTRITION EDUCATION AND PROMOTION INI-  
6 TIATIVE TO ADDRESS OBESITY.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-  
8 lish a demonstration program, to be known as the  
9 ‘Initiative to Address Obesity Among Low-Income  
10 Americans’ (referred to in this subsection as the  
11 ‘Initiative’), to develop and implement solutions to  
12 reduce obesity in the United States.

13 “(A) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall so-  
14 licit and competitively select demonstration pro-  
15 posals for strategies to address obesity among  
16 low-income Americans.

17 “(B) EVALUATION.—The effectiveness of  
18 these strategies shall be rigorously evaluated to

1 assess the impact on overweight and obesity  
2 among low-income persons.

3 “(C) DISSEMINATION.—Evaluation results  
4 shall be shared broadly to inform policy makers,  
5 service providers, other partners, and the public  
6 in order to promote wide use of successful  
7 strategies.

8 “(2) GRANTS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the  
10 Initiative, the Secretary may enter into com-  
11 petitively awarded contracts or cooperative  
12 agreements with, or grants to, public or private  
13 organizations or agencies as defined by the Sec-  
14 retary, for use in accordance with projects that  
15 meet the strategy goals of the Initiative.

16 “(B) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to re-  
17 ceive a contract, cooperative agreement, or  
18 grant under this paragraph, an organization  
19 shall submit to the Secretary an application at  
20 such time, in such manner, and containing such  
21 information as the Secretary may require.

22 “(C) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Demonstra-  
23 tion proposals shall be evaluated against pub-  
24 licly disseminated criteria that include—

1           “(i) identification of a low-income tar-  
2           get audience that corresponds to individ-  
3           uals living in households with incomes at  
4           or below 185 percent of the poverty level;

5           “(ii) incorporation of a scientifically-  
6           based strategy that is designed to improve  
7           diet quality through more healthful food  
8           purchases, preparation, or consumption;

9           “(iii) a commitment to a demonstra-  
10          tion plan that allows for a rigorous out-  
11          come evaluation, including data collection;  
12          and

13          “(iv) other criteria, as determined by  
14          the Secretary.

15          “(D) USE OF FUNDS.—

16           “(i) PROHIBITION.—Funds shall not  
17           be used for projects that limit the use of  
18           food and nutrition benefits.

19           “(ii) MONITORING AND EVALUA-  
20           TION.—The Secretary may use funds pro-  
21           vided for the Initiative to pay costs associ-  
22           ated with monitoring, evaluation, and dis-  
23           semination of the Initiative’s findings.

24          “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

25          There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out

1       this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal  
2       years 2008 through 2012, except that no new grants  
3       may be made under this subsection after September  
4       30, 2012.”.